

### REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed August 14, 2003, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration based on the above claim amendments and the following remarks. Applicant respectfully submits that the claims as presented are in condition for allowance.

Claims 1-23 were pending. Applicant has amended claims 1, 6, 11, 16, and 20 to more clearly define the present invention. Applicant has also canceled claim 21 without prejudice. After entry of these amendments, claims 1-20 and 22-23 will be pending. For the reasons stated below, Applicant respectfully submits that all claims pending in this application are in condition for allowance.

In the Office Action mailed August 14, 2003, claims 1-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,978,450 to McAllister et al. ("McAllister"). As described below, amended claims 1, 6, 11, 16, and 20 have overcome the rejection.

Examiner Escalante is thanked for the courtesies extended to applicants' representatives during the personal interview conducted October 30, 2003. The substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks. Agreements were reached as follows:

- Amendment to claims 1, 6, 11, 16, and 20 as presented above were discussed;
- McAllister (5,978,450) was discussed;
- The above references fails to teach or suggest the limitations; and
- Claims 1, 6, 11, 16, and 20, as amended, have overcome the rejections of record.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that all independent claims 1, 6, 11, 16, and 20 are now patentable over all the prior art references of record. Applicants further respectfully

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submit that all dependent claims should be patentable at least due to their dependencies from independent claims 1, 6, 11, 16, and 20.

In view of the foregoing all of the claims in this case are believed to be in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any questions or determine that any further action is desirable to place this application in even better condition for issue, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone Applicant's undersigned representative at the number listed below.

SHAW PITTMAN LLP  
1650 Tysons Boulevard  
McLean, VA 22102  
Tel: 703/770-7900

Respectfully submitted,

MICHAEL GRIFFITHS

Date: Nov. 13, 2003

By:

  
Wan-Ching Y. Montfort

DCI/CYM/dkp